

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

April 29, 2004

IN RE:

**PETITION OF NASHVILLE GAS COMPANY,
A DIVISION OF PIEDMONT NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF NEGOTIATED
FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH THE
METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF
NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**DOCKET NO.
04-00097**

**AGREED ORDER PERMITTING QUESTIONS FROM
THE AUTHORITY STAFF DURING THE HEARING**

This matter came before the Hearing Officer for the entry of an Order reflecting the agreement of Nashville Gas Company to permit the limited participation of the Authority Staff at the Hearing in this proceeding scheduled for April 29, 2004.

Nashville Gas Company by and through its undersigned attorneys, agrees to the participation of the Authority Staff by asking questions of witnesses during the Hearing and understands that the Authority Staff will not become or be deemed a Party by its participation during the Hearing.

After discussion with counsel for Nashville Gas Company and a review of the record in this matter, the Hearing Officer finds and concludes that:

1. There are highly technical issues in this proceeding causing the Authority to benefit from the participation of the Authority Staff in the Hearing;
2. To the extent that the Authority Staff refrains from questioning which tends to suggest the espousal of one position over another, the participation of the Authority Staff does not remove them from the role of advisor;

3. The participation in the questioning of witnesses by the Authority Staff does not create an inference that the Authority Staff has become a Party to this proceeding; and


4. The Authority Staff's questions of a witness will follow the Party's direct or cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness.

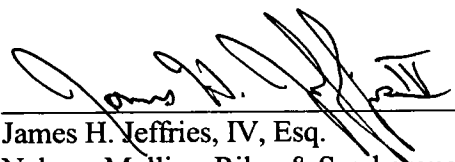
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:


1. Members of the Authority Staff of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority shall be allowed to pose questions directly to the witnesses in this case proceeding;

2. Questions from the Authority Staff will follow the Party's direct or cross-examination of a witness and will precede re-direct examination of a witness; and

3. Nashville Gas Company has agreed that presenting questions does not remove the Authority Staff from its role as advisors, and in no way creates the inference that the Authority Staff has become a Party to the proceeding or has acted outside of its purely advisory capacity;


J. Richard Collier
Hearing Officer


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